

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting April 16, 2003

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2003, scheduled for 8:30 a.m., in the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Council Chambers, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, California.

Members Present: Drew Bedwell, Chet Krage, Linda Stevens, Josh Susman, *Robin Sutherland

Members Absent: Kerry Arnett, Ann Guerra

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner.

Standing Orders: Chairman Susman convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:37 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

1. Financial Reports:

No comments.

2. Correspondence:

B. Senator Sam Aanestad - Letter to Caltrans District 3 Director Jody Lonergan, regarding the Dorsey Drive interchange.

Executive Director Landon stated that he appreciated Senator Aanestad's letter to Caltrans wherein he expressed his support for the Dorsey Drive interchange.

3. Executive Director's Report:

3.1 Status on Project Approval and Environmental Documentation for the SR 89 Railroad Undercrossing "Mousehole"

*Commissioner Sutherland arrived at the meeting.

Executive Director Landon stated that the CTC, at its April meeting, released \$600 million dollars for STIP projects with the focus on construction of projects. Therefore, the "Mousehole" project, which is in the project development phase, has been put on hold until the State's cash flow recovers.

3.2 SR 49: Proposed Intersection/Interchange at Crestview Drive

Executive Director Landon stated that staff had been meeting with Caltrans and the City of Grass Valley staff to discuss the proposed intersection/interchange at Crestview Drive. A

financing mechanism needs to be developed and then circulated to various stakeholders to determine its viability, based on the developer's contribution and the City's participation. NCTC staff is to meet next week with City staff to brainstorm financing ideas for the project. NCTC staff is also working with Caltrans to identify provisions that would go into Cooperative Agreements between the City and the State to provide the State with assurances the community will be able to fund the desired improvement.

3.3 Air Quality Conformity

Executive Director Landon stated that by April 2004, Nevada County will be designated as "non-attainment" under a federal standard for ozone, which will set two requirements in motion. The first requirement will be that after one year of designation, Nevada County has to make a "conformity determination". This essentially states that none of the transportation related projects will delay or prevent the community from coming into conformity. The second requirement, within three years after designation, will include a host of governmental agencies, such as, the California Air Resources Board, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, the NCTC, Caltrans, and the cities, to work together to develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIP is a regional multi-year plan that will tell the federal government how the region proposes to meet the ozone standards. NCTC staff is working to understand all of the requirements and has been in contact with staff from Caltrans Air Quality Division and Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District.

Chairman Susman questioned how NCTC, as a lead agency in this plan, is held accountable on issues that are beyond its control or purview. A Commission discussion ensued with Mr. Landon stating that staff will be actively involved in the process and will keep the Commission well informed.

3.4 Truckee Transit Services

Executive Director Landon stated that the Town of Truckee received notification from Area Transit Management (ATM) that they will not continue their contract after June 30th for providing transit services for the Town of Truckee. The Town is seeking to acquire an interim contractor and will work on a plan for a long-term solution to this issue. Mr. Landon stated that this change in contractors will delay completion of the five-year eastern Nevada County Transit Development Plan. Once the Town has a new contract established, NCTC staff and the consultant, LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc., will examine how the change in transit providers will affect the draft plan recommendations.

3.5 SR 20 Turnouts

Executive Director Landon stated that this item was a follow-up to Commissioner's Krage request to look into the possibility of having additional turnouts and passing lanes along SR 20 east of Nevada City. He stated that Caltrans had provided him with information of potential locations and cost estimates for the turnouts and passing lanes, and that Mike Woodman had provided graphics showing the aerial view of where they would be located. Mr. Landon explained that at this point in time, Caltrans does not have funding for this project, but when funding becomes available, NCTC could review its regional priorities and consider putting some regional money into this project, or see if Caltrans would consider it as a State Highway Operations and Protection Plan (SHOPP) project.

A Commission discussion ensued regarding placement of the turnouts and having projects ready for funding in the future. The Commission requested that Caltrans consider bike lanes and turnouts when improvements or repairs are made and that information regarding SR 20 turnouts be provided to the California Highway Patrol for their input.

4. Caltrans District 3 - Project Status Report: Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager, reviewed his written report on the status of projects in Nevada County.
 - Dorsey Drive Interchange: Mr. Brannon stated Dorsey Drive interchange is scheduled to be open to traffic in the fall of 2008. He also noted that Caltrans traffic modeling staff will provide analysis of the "weave" issues by June.
 - Modify Traffic Signal Brunswick Road: Construction has been suspended. Work is scheduled to restart in August 2003.
 - Gold Flat Road Roundabout: Mr. Brannon stated that design work will not start until August. Project approval and environmental clearance should be complete in January 2004. Construction may begin in July 2004.
 - Left Turn Lanes at Indian Flat and Newtown Roads: Due to cut in resources, construction is moved to spring 2004.
 - Widening of SR 49 from Wolf/Combie to Grass Valley: Mr. Brannon stated there will be ongoing discussions with the County regarding frontage road ownership.
 - Widen Shoulder from just north of Lime Kiln to Pekolee Drive: FHWA concurred that the environmental clearance will be a categorical exemption, which will lessen the amount of time and work needed.
 - Add left turn lanes just north of the widening project at Lime Kiln: A minor project proposed for the 2004/05 FY: This project is between Round Valley Road and Quail Creek Drive. The goal is to take this minor project and combine it with the widening project at Pekolee Drive for construction to occur at the same time.
 - Truckee Roundabouts: This project is on track and a Concept Approval Report is expected soon from the Town's consultant.
 - Truckee Bypass Mitigation Planting: Funding is not available until the 2003/04 FY. The planting falls under required mitigation and therefore Mr. Brannon is confident it will be funded.
 - Truckee Relinquishment: Construction is expected to start in May. Caltrans is working with the Town's staff to resolve some remaining issues before relinquishment of the old Route 267 to the Town occurs.

A Commission discussion ensued regarding striping refuge lanes on SR 49 at some locations as a temporary fix until the widening project could be constructed with a continuous left turn lane.

5. Caltrans District 3, System Planning: Nicholas Deal, Caltrans Associate Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the development of the SR 20 Transportation Concept Report.

ACTION ITEMS:

6. Federal Transit Administration Section 5310.

Executive Director Landon stated that Gold Country Telecare, Inc. had submitted applications for replacement of five vehicles.

Commissioner Stevens exempted herself from participating in this action item.

Executive Director Landon stated that staff used the State criteria for scoring the five applications, and based on past cycles, most or all of the projects should be fundable. He noted that this item was being presented to the Commission to provide Gold Country Telecare, Inc. an opportunity to appeal the scores. However, Don Martin, Executive Director of Gold Country Telecare had notified Mr. Landon that he agreed with the scores. Mr. Landon asked the Commission to approve Resolution 03-08 that adopted the priority list and gave him authorization to submit the required certifications and assurances.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sutherland to adopt Resolutions 03-08. Commissioner Krage seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4 to 0.

Commissioner Stevens returned to the dais to resume participation in the Commission meeting.

7. SR 49 Widening Project Re: Bear River Bridge Enhancements.

Executive Director Landon stated he sent an email to the Commissioners with photographs and four options for potential enhancements to the Bear River Bridge. A Commission discussion ensued regarding the funding of the options and the reasons for enhancing the appearance of the bridge.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to use brown color with wood grain finish texturing and rock facing on the design of the Bear River Bridge. Commissioner Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

During the discussion regarding funding of the bridge enhancements, staff was directed to correspond with Senator Aanestad and Assemblyman Keene regarding changes to statutes that will return funding to RTPAs when project costs are lower than the amount programmed in the STIP.

Commissioner Krage asked Mr. Brannon if refuge lanes could be included in the design of SR 49 where low volume roads and driveways were not included in frontage roads. He referred to Cameo Drive as an example. Mr. Brannon responded he would look into striping to be sure it was designed that way.

8. Brunswick Corridor Study.

Executive Director Landon stated that the Brunswick Corridor Study had been reviewed with the public and with representatives from Grass Valley, Nevada County, and Loma Rica Ranch, and asked that staff be directed to forward the study to the City of Grass Valley and Nevada County with the following items to be considered:

1. The Brunswick Corridor, from SR 174 to SR 20/49, needs to continue to function as an arterial facility.
2. A second access to the Loma Rica Industrial Park is desirable from both the safety and circulation perspectives.
3. The Dorsey Drive Interchange will provide significant improvement to circulation within the Brunswick Basin and along the Brunswick Corridor, and therefore its construction needs to remain as a high regional priority.
4. An extension of Dorsey Drive from Sutton Way to Brunswick Road will aid circulation within the corridor and needs to be integrated with future land use plans.
5. The City of Grass Valley and Nevada County need to work with the Nevada County Transportation Commission to identify funding for and timing of construction of improvements along the Brunswick Corridor.

Commissioner Krage asked why Caltrans could not be involved in the Brunswick Corridor improvements and a Commission discussion ensued as to the possibility of Caltrans taking ownership of the Brunswick Corridor.

Executive Director Landon stated he would research the process for the Brunswick Corridor to become a state-owned highway and would report back to the Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to direct Mr. Landon to forward to the City and County the Brunswick Corridor Study with the recommendations. Commissioner Krage seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jerry Mehren stated that with traffic being routed through Dorsey Drive to Idaho Maryland Road he was concerned what would happen with the children living in the apartments located along that arterial route.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Krage stated that Michael Hill-Weld was presenting the gateway monument proposal before the Board of Supervisors for their direction on May 6th.

Commissioner Sutherland stated that the County is developing a mapping system for disabled people in wheelchairs to use that show the location of curb cutouts.

Commissioner Sutherland stated she had a conflict with being able to attend the Commission meeting and the Yuba Watershed Council meeting, and that both were important to her to attend. She stated that the Yuba Watershed Council was unable to change its meeting schedule and asked that a change in meeting time for the Commission be brought forward for discussion.

Chairman Susman directed staff to agendize this request for the next Commission meeting.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 21, 2003 at 9:30 a.m., at the Truckee Town Council Chambers. Commission staff will arrange public transportation.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Nancy D. Holman, Administrative Services Officer

Approved on: _____

By: _____
Joshua J. Susman, Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission